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Rec'd: June 20, 1954 11:16 p.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1052, June 20, 4 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUN 21 1954
file fyi

Reference Department telegram 1323 June 20

Embassy is able to report accurately only on events in Guatemala City and even here it is difficult to verify enormous numbers of rumors mostly false which are circulating. Spreading of false reports is fine art in Guatemala and both government and opposition elements are adept.

Embassy has no confirmation that the "invasion" of Guatemala has taken place. What is clear is that rebel forces are operating in eastern and northeastern parts of country, in some cases near Honduras frontier. No reliable information is available about progress of rebels but they are not known to hold any important town. Reports of uprisings in other parts of country not confirmed.

Reports apparently originating in Tegucigalpa and broadcast over Armed Forces radio are grossly exaggerated and are causing confusion among local residents. Suggest adoption of more balanced approach making clear when reports are unconfirmed rumors. Guatemalan Government reports are also mixtures of fact and fiction and should be received with caution.

PEURIFOY

MAM/8

Note: Mr. Leddy (MID) informed 2:15 a.m. 6/21/54. EMB/CWO

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